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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**
NOFORNCOUNTRY **East Germany**

REPORT

TOPIC **Loadings and Troop Movements in the Area of the 20th Gds Mecz Div**

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED **10 October 1955**

25X1

REFERENCES

2

25X1

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. On 19 September 1955, the following materiel was loaded at the Zeitz railroad station:

In the afternoon, 8 T-34/85 tanks, 3 SU-100 guns mounting soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets and 1 salvage tank; and, in the evening, 18 T-34/85 tanks, 2 salvage tanks and truck occupied by officers. Each 6 of the tanks had the following tactical symbols: I II III

25X1

All tanks came from Artillerie Kaserne (8542). ¹

25X1

2. It was learned that all units from the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) were to return prior to 15 October. The installation was occupied by some 180 soldiers who wore black bordered red and, some, red-bordered black epaulets. 2

3. Between 20 and 24 September, the following columns passed through Blankenhain south of Weimar:

20 September. At about 2230, 30 trucks with soldiers, from the direction of Jena toward Schwarza.

23 September. At 1900, a column of 28 trucks including some with soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia and the majority carrying signal equipment, from the direction of Muellershausen, north of Blankenhain, toward Jena.

24 September. After 1230, several columns from the direction of Schwarza toward Jena as follows: column of 30 trucks, each occupied by some 25 soldiers, most of whom wore black-bordered red epaulets, and 3 or 4 field kitchens;

column of 10 JSU-122 guns

25X1

column of 10 JS-3 tanks

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

column of an undetermined number of trucks and radio trucks with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia and blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia; column of an undetermined number of trucks with ammunition boxes and 3 trucks, each towing a field kitchen. Vehicles and personnel were dusty. 3

A teacher from a school in Blankenhain stated that the crops had to be harvested prior to 6 October because of maneuvers. 4

1. Comment. These were elements of the 36th Gds Tank Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div which, judging from the number of vehicles and tactical symbols, were entrained for exercises, possibly divisional exercises in the Ohrdruf area. See Comments 2 and 3.
2. Comment. The 67th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Infanterie Kaserne is believed to be still stationed in the Ohrdruf area.
3. Comment. The columns presumably involved elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Jena which probably returned from the Ohrdruf area to the post on 23 and 24 September. Since, apparently, only part of these movements were observed, it is possible that the 20th Gds Mecz Div conducted divisional exercises at Ohrdruf from 19/20 to 23/24 September.
4. Comment. The observations indicate additional exercises.

25X1

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